

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for deodorizing large-scale plants comprising a malodorous solid or liquid material that is stored open-air;

treating unpurified air above the surface of the malodorous material with volatile active deodorizing agents that react with or mask the malodorous substances that the unpurified air contains; ~~contains~~;

wherein the volatile active agents are dispersed in a matrix of a crosslinked polymer comprising hydrophilic groups and form, with this, a spongelike composition from which the volatile active agents are slowly released and evaporate; ~~evaporate~~;

wherein the crosslinked polymer comprises a condensation product of a maleinized or epoxidized polymer and a polyamine as the crosslinking agent or a copolymer of a monofunctional (meth)acrylic monomer and a polyfunctional (meth)acrylic monomer as the crosslinking agent;

wherein the spongelike composition is incorporated between two parallel boards essentially completely open on all sides above the surface of the malodorous material or at the edge of the large-scale plant and the space between the boards is between 2 and 20 cm;

wherein the spongelike composition comprises crumbs, boards or strips 0.5 to 3 cm wide laid on nets or lattices that are incorporated between the parallel boards; and

a stream of air from natural wind flows between the parallel boards and over the spongelike composition and releases the volatile active agents.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the volatile active agents are released slowly and uniformly from the spongelike composition over a period of at least three days.
6. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the volatile active agents are present in amounts of 10 to 90% by weight of the spongelike composition.
7. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the volatile active agents comprise aldehydes, ketones, alcohols, esters or natural oily essences.
8. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spongelike composition contains at least 0.1% by weight, preferably 1 to 8% by weight, of water.
9. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spongelike composition further comprises flame retardants, sublimation assistants and/or powder in order to prevent caking.
10. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a number of parallel boards are distributed in the large-scale plant or arranged around its edge.
11. (Withdrawn) Device for deodorizing large-scale plants consisting of a pair of parallel boards open on all sides between which a spongelike composition is incorporated, said composition containing a matrix of a polymer containing crosslinked hydrophilic agents and volatile deodorizing agents dispersed therein.
12. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the spongelike composition is laid on nets or lattices.
13. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the parallel boards measure from 5 x 5 cm to 100 x 100 cm and are at a distance of from 2 to 20 cm from each other.

14. (Withdrawn) Device as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the parallel boards are fixed horizontally to vertical posts.